

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 12th.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Laura Cordes; Jamie Cotnoir; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Gia Drew; Rachel Dyer; Suzanne Farley; Michael Hallundbaek; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Esther Miller; Pete Plummer (alt. for Mark Eves); Atlee Reilly; Dee Sabattus; Jeff Tiner, and Susan White.

Department: Heather Bingelis; Molly Bogart; Leslie Dyer; Erik Eisele; Fran Jensen; Amanda Lee; Bill Logan; Shannon Martin; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert; Catherine Stevens, and Molly Slotznick; Anne-Marie Toderico.

Guests: Sanaa Abduljah; Albert Abena; Asha Ali Main; Nicole Breton; Elizabeth Cameron; Alex Carter; Rachel Collamore; Kate Ende; Cathy Hamilton; Malory Shaughnessy; Katherine Stevens, and Bryan Wyatt.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a.) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- New PC Plus program went live on July 1st.
- As part of PC Plus, the HOME Program benefit went live on July 1st.
- COLA Rate changes for Sections 40, 65, 91, 92, 93, Appendix D of Section 97, and Section 102 went live on July 1.
- Molly presented an update on the EVV soft launch. On July 1st the Department went live with the soft launch for EVV visit verification for home health providers. No claims will deny during this soft launch period. The hospice soft launch will start September 13th.
- Kathy asked if there is some opportunity for those who work with members to connect with the Department about what the unwinding process will look like when the PHE does end. Michelle noted that the PHE is scheduled to end Saturday, but the expectation is that it will be extended another 90 days to mid-October. Because of the Federal government's commitment to provide 60 days'

notice prior to ending the PHE, mid-August would be the next date we would expect to hear if the PHE will be extended again.

- Erik noted that the Department is working on two RFPs that will engage community based organization to build a network of community based organizations to assist with outreach and communication of the PHE unwinding as it gets closer.

b.) Pharmacy Benefit Change Info —Anne-Marie Toderico

Anne-Marie explained that there is a Federal requirement that MaineCare only reimburse for pharmacy claims that are written by enrolled MaineCare prescribers. The Department will be implementing denial for any claims that are prescribed by a non-enrolled provider. The Department has been working on communications with providers, and is planning to reach out to impacted members to let them know that their claims could possibly be denied in the future if their provider is not enrolled as a MaineCare prescriber.

Kathy expressed the concern that in certain areas of healthcare it can be a challenge for MaineCare members to find MaineCare enrolled providers for their needs. Anne-Marie noted there is an option for providers to enroll as a non-billing provider if they are not interested in enrolling in MaineCare as a full provider.

c.) Rate System Updates

CMS had initially instructed the Department that provider agencies that had layoffs would not be eligible for the retainer payments that went out under the HCBS Appendix K waivers. CMS has now decided those agencies will be eligible. Retainer payments will be going out this week to put that revised payment guidance from CMS into play.

A technical advisory panel will be created to weigh in on rate setting changes and timelines, and there will be stakeholder engagement around that schedule as well.

Michelle shared an update on FY22 Rate studies planned and in progress. She will provide a more substantive update in the fall.

d.) New Dental Benefit Access and Outreach—David Jorgenson & Eric Eisele

- David presented an overview of the work the rate Setting unit has been engaging in to identify dental providers.
- Erik noted the Communications team has moved forward a number of new initiatives in workforce development for dental providers who are serving the MaineCare population, as well as working on outreach and communication about the new rates to make sure dentists are informed regarding the new rates and the new coverage group. The unit is engaging in a survey to ask if providers

have heard about the new rates and if they might consider becoming a MaineCare provider.

- Kate Ende asked if there are any plans to update the provider directory tool. She noted that because there are already so many challenges with finding a provider, it would be helpful to remove any other barriers. Molly noted the information in the provider directory is populated with information from enrollment. She asked Kate to send her an email with the places where the functionality seems strange and she will send the info along to our vendor to see if they can look into the issue.
- Therese Cahill noted the administrative burden is the biggest concern she is hearing from providers. Providers would also prefer a rounded rate rather than a down to the penny rate as that level of detail makes it challenging for office managers. She also noted that in regards to enrolling in MaineCare as dental providers it's not necessarily that providers want to say no, it's that the workforce in dentistry right now is decimated. Every place across the state is workforce challenged. Most aren't taking new patients whether they are MaineCare members or not. The staffing shortage is hugely significant.

e.) **Revalidation Update—Bill Logan**

- How long does it take the second time? Bill noted that the average turnaround time over the past nine weeks has been 10 days, so it is going pretty quickly.

f.) **Policies pertaining to SNAP payment collections for SUD PNMI—Esther Miller**

- Suzanne Farley inquired if MaineCare puts out a manual for MaineCare members that are going into SNAP. Esther noted there is not a manual. SNAP is an entirely separate program from MaineCare
- 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 301, SNAP Rules, § 444-5(2)(A), (B)(5), and (C) provides the related general rules and program procedures for residents of centers that provide SUD treatment. There is an upcoming rulemaking, SNAP 223, that will open this section of policy. Stay tuned on the OFI rulemaking page for an opportunity for public comment. SNAP team contacts at OFI are Ian Miller (Senior Program Manager) and Michael Downs (P-EBT Program Manager), ian.miller@maine.gov and Michael.E.Downs@maine.gov.

g.) **Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Updates With Jenny Patterson**

- No rules are currently open for public comment, but do expect the dental rule to be proposed next week and open for comment.
- Section 45 hospital services, Section 65, and Section 93 opioid health homes are moving to the adoption stage.

Items From Guests.

None

h.) **Wrap Up**

- Reminder: there will not be an August MAC meeting
- The next MAC meeting will be held Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 10:00 AM
- The election for the MAC Chair and Vice-chair will occur on September 6th.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at noon